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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY TO RECOMMEND INCREASES IN PENALTIES FOR  
KILLING CERTAIN BIG GAME ANIMALS FOR THEIR HEADS, ANTLERS OR  
BODY PARTS AND WASTING THEIR MEAT.

WHEREAS, it is illegal to take the heads, antlers or other  
body parts of deer, elk, bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, pronghorn  
antelope and javelina and leave the carcasses to rot; and

WHEREAS, conservation officers and citizens are  
discovering decapitated bodies of big game animals such as mule  
deer, elk, bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, pronghorn antelope and  
javelina; and

WHEREAS, poachers take from legal hunters who pay for  
their hunting licenses, follow the law and appreciate the need  
for wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, human beings should be respectful of the animals

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1 they kill and wasting animals is disrespectful and disgusting;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, uncaring, heartless poachers have been known to  
4 kill does and fawns; and

5 WHEREAS, poachers are defaming the name of the "land of  
6 enchantment" and giving a bad name to responsible hunters; and

7 WHEREAS, citizens should be protected from the heartbreak  
8 of discovering the rotting bodies of beheaded and dismembered  
9 animals; and

10 WHEREAS, poachers leaving carcasses of big game animals  
11 are fined very little, from fifty dollars (\$50.00) to five  
12 hundred dollars (\$500), and may be repeat offenders; and

13 WHEREAS, the wild friends and other citizens wish to  
14 decrease wanton waste and trophy poaching by increasing fines  
15 and jail sentences for offenders, adding community service and  
16 requiring restitution to the state of the value of the animal  
17 killed; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the lowest penalties for wasting  
19 big game animals of all the Rocky Mountain states, classifying  
20 waste as a misdemeanor offense while other states have higher  
21 misdemeanors or felonies or both, community service and  
22 restitution; and

23 WHEREAS, stronger measures need to be taken to protect New  
24 Mexico's big game animals from poachers, who should learn that  
25 their illegal actions will not be tolerated; and

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